

## 2016 Spring Lecture Series | Autism Spectrum Disorder – Knowledge and Practice

A five week lecture series about the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Each week will offer information about a different clinical area, discussing symptoms and ideas to support individuals with ASD.

Presentations are intended for parents or family members, as well as front-line professionals (teachers, early childhood educators, developmental services workers), students, or anyone else with interest in this topic.

Each weekly session will run from **6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** in Zarfes Hall, CPRI (600 Sanatorium Road, London, Ontario, N6H 3W7). There is no cost to attend the workshops.

### **1** **Diagnosis and Pharmacological Treatment of ASD** **Tuesday, April 26, 2016** **Presented by: Dr. Rob Nicolson, Psychiatrist**

The first part of this presentation will explain the clinical assessment for the diagnosis of ASD, including a review of symptoms (as outlined in the [DSM-5](#)) and a description of how some of the symptoms present in children. The second part of the presentation will describe medications commonly used to treat interfering behaviours (aggression, inattention, hyperactivity and anxiety) associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and will include information about current evidence-based treatments.

### **2** **The Language and Social Communication of ASD** **Tuesday, May 3, 2016** **Presented by: Joan Gardiner and Mandy Harloff, Speech-Language Pathologists**

This presentation is intended to provide information about how some of the characteristics of ASD influence communication. Issues reviewed will include what skills are needed for effective communication and why, when these are impaired for children/youth with ASD, difficulties may occur. General information about intervention approaches to support communication development will also be presented.

### **3** **Motor Development and Sensory Processing in Children with ASD** **Tuesday, May 10, 2016** **Presented by: Renee Ellis, Occupational Therapist**

This presentation will include information about motor and sensory differences that may be present in children with ASD. It will include a review of behaviours that may be related to motor difficulties and over-responsiveness/under-responsiveness to sensory input. General information and strategies to support improved participation in daily activities will be discussed.

**\*\*Note: There will be no workshop held on May 17<sup>th</sup>\*\***

**4 The Link Between ASD and Problem Behaviour**  
**Presented by: Patty Petersen and Monique Nagtegaal**  
**Board Certified Behaviour Analysts**

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

This presentation begins by exploring basic principles of human behaviour, including the nature of reinforcement, behaviour function, and how behaviour is strengthened to increase the likelihood that it will happen again. This is followed by an examination of problem behaviour and how the symptoms associated with an ASD diagnosis can contribute to problem behaviour. Finally, a five-step plan for behaviour change is described with ways to improve care providers' overall well-being along with the well-being of the person with ASD; strategies for preventing problem behaviour; ways to teach alternative behaviours; and lastly, what to do when problem behaviour occurs to reduce the likelihood of strengthening it.

**5 Understanding ASD**  
**Presented by: Dr. Craig Ross, Psychologist**

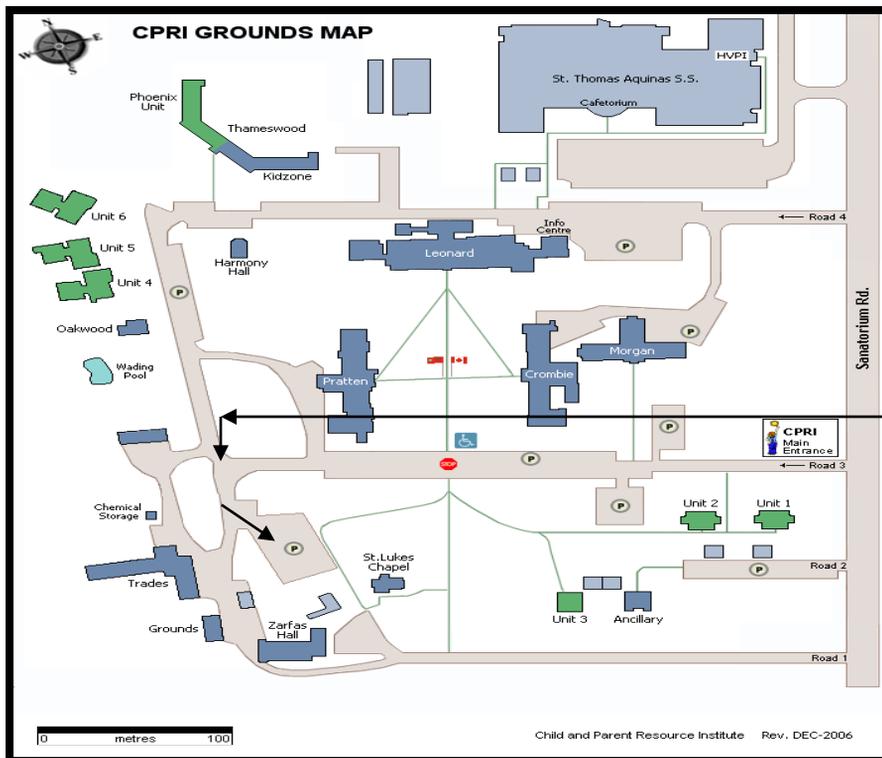
Tuesday, May 31, 2016

This presentation will include information about how all of the symptoms associated with ASD create the profile of skills and challenges for children/youth with this diagnosis. The presentation is intended to review and integrate information discussed from previous weeks to support a better understanding of the diagnosis of ASD.

**To Register**

Please go to <http://vocpri.ca/education-events/clinical-series>.

If you have questions or you would like to register to attend via the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) you may contact Jennifer Brown at (519) 858-2774, extension 5507 or by email at: [jennifer.brown4@ontario.ca](mailto:jennifer.brown4@ontario.ca) to make arrangements.



**Enter at Driveway 3**